<u>Trend Study 29-1-98</u>

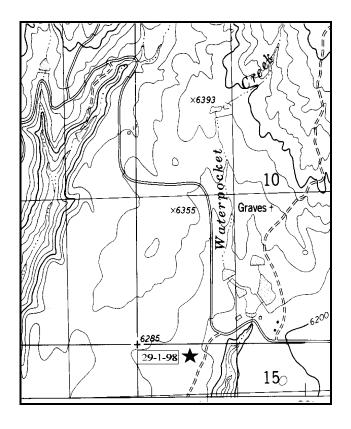
Study site name: Wilson Ranch. Range type: Big Sagebrush.

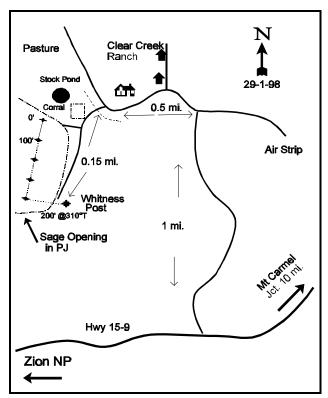
Compass bearing: frequency baseline 180 degrees.

Footmark (first frame placement) 5 feet, footmarks (frequency belts) line 1 (11 & 71ft), line 2 (34ft), line 3 (59ft), line 4 (95ft).

LOCATION DESCRIPTION

From Mt. Carmel Junction, travel west on SR-9 for about 10.8 miles to a road going towards the Clear Creek Ranch and Zion Narrows. Go 1.0 mile north on this road to an intersection by the airstrip. Turn left, go past the Clear Creek Ranch houses and barn for 0.5 miles to where the main road curves to the right around the ranch - take a small fork to the left here. Go through a gate and to a corral. Bear left into the P-J at a fork just past the corral, go 0.15 miles and stop by a witness post. Walk northwest about 200 feet into the P-J to a sagebrush opening and the end of the baseline. The 0-foot stake is 400 feet north, and the 2' fencepost is marked by browse tag #7159.





Map Name: Clear Creek Mountain

Township 41S, Range 9W, Section 15

Diagrammatic Sketch

UTM 4124150.795 N, 336644.852 E

DISCUSSION

Trend Study No. 29-1

The Wilson Ranch trend study samples an area of deer winter range located on the Kolob Terrace. The land was part of the privately owned Wilson Ranch. Ownership appears to have changed since 1987. During the 1992 reading, the ranch was called the Cedar Creek Ranch, and in 1998 it was called the Clear Creek Ranch. The study samples a small opening of Wyoming big sagebrush surrounded by pinyon-juniper with scattered oak clones. It has a slight northern aspect with a gentle slope of approximately 2% and an elevation of 6,200 feet. Cattle grazing, which occurred during the 1987 reading, appeared to have been discontinued in 1992. However, cattle use was noted again in 1998. Pellet group data from 1998 estimate light cattle use at 11 days use/acre. Deer use appears to be very high with an estimated 111 days use/acre. Most of the deer pellet groups were several months old, but some fresh tracks were found on the site. Pellet groups appeared to be concentrated in the sagebrush clearing, with dramatically less frequent sign outside the sagebrush opening. About 1/4 of a mile to the east are irrigated hay fields, which deer may be using during the summer. Quadrat frequency of deer pellet groups have increased since 1992, indicating a higher level of use.

Soil on the site is relatively shallow with an effective rooting depth (see methods) estimated at 15 inches. At that depth, the soil becomes very compacted and there may be a hardpan, or some kind of other restrictive layer present. Texture is a sandy loam with a neutral pH (6.8). Rock and pavement are not common on the surface or within the soil profile. The red, sandy loam soil is highly erodible. Rills are common across the site, leading to small gullies in the pinyon-juniper north of the baseline. The effects of erosion are minimized by the levelness of the terrain.

The dominant shrub in the opening is Wyoming big sagebrush which had an estimated density of 2,466 plants/acre in 1987. The age structure of the population at that time appeared stable, with 57% of the plants classified as mature, 24% decadent, and 19% young. Seedlings numbered 333/acre. Forty-six percent of the sagebrush were heavily hedged. Wyoming big sagebrush density increased to an estimated 9,820 plants/acre by 1992. Some of this increase is due to the much larger sample size taken during that year, but the population definitely increased with large numbers of young plants sampled at that time (5,340 plants/acre). Percent decadency remained similar, while the proportion of shrubs displaying heavy hedging declined to 9%. Density declined 59% by 1998 from 9,820 to 4,060 plants/acre. This decline is mostly due to a decline in density of young plants (5,340 to 720 plants/acre). Dead plants, first included in the 1998 surveys, were abundant with 33% of the decadent plants classified as dying. Utilization is similar to 1992 levels, but with more moderate use. Percent decadency has increased slightly from 21% in 1992 to 34% by 1998. Young plants are still common and represent 18% of the population.

Other important browse species on the site consist of Utah serviceberry, black sagebrush, and small numbers of squaw-apple. Black sagebrush displayed extremely heavy use in 1987, but more moderate use in 1992 and 1998. The small population of squaw-apple was all heavily hedged in 1987 and 1998. It likely receives dual use from cows and deer.

Broom snakeweed was the most numerous shrub on the site with an estimated density of 2,933 plants/acre in 1987, increasing to 13,080 by 1992. Density declined to 8,680 plants/acre by 1998. Biotic potential is still high at 17%. The proportion of young plants has increased from 18% in 1987 to 34% in 1998. Pinyon and juniper trees are encroaching into the clearing. Point quarter data from 1998 estimate 32 Utah juniper and 29 pinyon pine trees/acre. Average basal diameter is 6.7 inches for juniper and 3.6 inches for pinyon.

The herbaceous understory is poor and lacking perennial species. Annual cheatgrass dominates the understory. It provided 32% of the grass cover in 1992, increasing to 69% by 1998. Cheatgrass cover also increased from 1% to 9% during the same period. The second most abundant grass is another annual, sixweeks fescue. Four species of perennial grass include the following: Indian ricegrass, mutton bluegrass,

sand dropseed, and bottlebrush squirreltail are found on the site, yet none provide more than 1% cover. Most of the grass is found in the protection of shrubs. Forbs are diverse, although they provide very little forage. The most common species is the annual bur buttercup.

1987 APPARENT TREND ASSESSMENT

Over half of the ground surface is exposed soil due to the lack of vegetation cover between the individual sagebrush. There are a few patches of cryptogams. Litter cover is estimated at 43%, making a total ground cover of 47%. A healthy population of Wyoming big sagebrush represents the key browse species for this site. Age class analysis indicates a stable population. Less abundant shrubs consisting of squaw-apple and bitterbrush are heavily hedged. Broom snakeweed is the most numerous browse which appears to be increasing. Herbaceous species are fairly diverse, yet not very abundant.

1992 TREND ASSESSMENT

Most of the herbaceous vegetation occurs under shrub and tree canopies leaving the interspaces prone to erosion. Bare ground estimates have declined slightly from 53% to 43%, but litter cover also declined from 43% to 31%. Trend is considered stable, although it is in very poor condition. Trend for browse is considered up with increased densities of Wyoming big sagebrush. Utilization is lighter and reproduction improved. Herbaceous plants, growing mostly under the shrub and tree canopies, are diverse and not abundant, producing little usable forage. Sum nested frequencies for perennial grasses remained stable, while those for forbs increased, indicating a slightly upward trend.

TREND ASSESSMENT

<u>soil</u> - stable, but in very poor condition <u>browse</u> - up herbaceous understory - up slightly

1998 TREND ASSESSMENT

Trend for soil appears stable with similar amounts of bare ground compared to 1992. Conditions are still poor however. Trend is down for the key species, Wyoming big sagebrush. Density has declined by 59%, use is heavier, percent decadence has increased from 21% to 34%, and a larger proportion of decadent plants appear to be dying. Trend for the herbaceous understory is stable for perennial grasses, but down significantly for forbs, although forbs make up 19% of the herbaceous understory cover. The annual, cheatgrass, has increased significantly in nested frequency since 1992. It currently provides 69% of the grass cover and 55% of the total herbaceous cover. Another annual, sixweeks fescue, has also increased significantly in nested frequency and is now the second most abundant grass on the site providing an additional 13% of the grass cover. Perennial grasses are scarce and found growing exclusively under the protection of shrubs. Forbs are very diverse but annuals dominate the composition. Overall, trend is considered down and in poor condition.

TREND ASSESSMENT

<u>soil</u> - stable, but in very poor condition<u>browse</u> - down<u>herbaceous understory</u> - down and dominated by annuals

HERBACEOUS TRENDS --

Herd unit 29, Study no: 1

Herd unit 29, Study no: 1 T Species	Nested	Freque	ncv	Quadra	t Freque	ency	Avei	rage
y		Treque	·		t i requi	one y	Cove	er %
p e	'87	'92	'98	'87	'92	'98	0 92	1 98
G Bromus tectorum (a)	-	_a 98	_b 253	-	40	83	1.02	9.04
G Oryzopsis hymenoides	17	30	33	9	15	16	.54	.63
G Poa fendleriana	29	33	25	12	15	12	.47	.69
G Sitanion hystrix	_b 75	_a 41	_{ab} 46	31	18	26	.53	.38
G Sporobolus cryptandrus	21	40	35	10	19	17	.53	.74
G Stipa comata	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	.00
G Vulpia octoflora (a)	-	_a 17	_b 72	-	8	28	.06	1.68
Total for Annual Grasses	0	115	325	0	48	111	1.09	10.73
Total for Perennial Grasses	142	144	141	62	67	72	2.09	2.46
Total for Grasses	142	259	466	62	115	183	3.18	13.19
F Antennaria rosea	_		1	_	_	1	-	.03
F Arabis spp.	a-	_b 7	_b 9	-	5	5	.02	.07
F Astragulus piutensis	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
F Calochortus nuttallii	a-	_b 12	_{ab} 3	-	5	1	.02	.01
F Chenopodium spp. (a)	-	_b 6	a -	-	4	-	.02	-
F Cymopterus spp.	-	3	-	-	1	-	.00	-
F Dalea searlsiae	2	-	1	2	-	1	.04	.03
F Draba spp. (a)	-	a ⁻	_b 20	-	-	10	-	.05
F Epilobium brachycarpum (a)	-	27	23	-	10	9	.10	.04
F Erigeron divergens	59	62	66	28	25	31	.22	.65
F Ipomopsis aggregata	4	-	=	2	-	-	-	-
F Lomatium spp.	-	2	1	-	1	1	.00	.03
F Lotus utahensis	-	-	4	-	-	2	-	.03
F Lupinus argenteus	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	.03
F Microsteris gracilis (a)	-	_b 146	_a 73	-	58	33	.36	.36
F Orobanche corymbosa	-	4	=	-	2	-	.01	-
F Penstemon linarioides	_b 11	a-	a ⁻	6	-	-	-	-
F Phlox longifolia	a -	_{ab} 7	_b 7	1	3	4	.02	.02
F Polygonum douglasii (a)	-	_b 135	_a 52	-	57	22	.43	.18
F Portulaca oleracea	4		_	2		_	_	
F Ranunculus testiculatus (a)		_a 65	_b 159	-	25	55	.20	1.44
F Sanguisorba minor	_	-	3	-	-	1	-	.03
F Senecio multilobatus	_	3	2		1	2	.00	.01
F Sphaeralcea parvifolia	1	10	3	1	6	2	.13	.01
F Tragopogon dubius	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	.03
F Trifolium spp.	-	2	5	-	1	2	.00	.03
F Verbena bracteata	-	-	-	-	-	-	.00	-
F Viguiera multiflora	-	3	3	-	1	1	.00	.00

T Species y	Nested	Freque	ncy	Quadra	ıt Freque	ency	Ave:	_
p e	'87	'92	'98	'87	'92	'98	192	1 98
Total for Annual Forbs	0	244	327	0	97	129	0.68	2.09
Total for Perennial Forbs	84	250	112	43	108	56	0.95	1.03
Total for Forbs	84	494	439	43	205	185	1.63	3.12

Values with different subscript letters are significantly different at % = 0.10

BROWSE TRENDS --

Herd unit 29, Study no: 1

T y p	Species	Str Frequ '92	rip uency '98	Aver Cove '92	-
В	Amelanchier utahensis	6	5	3.70	4.19
В	Artemisia nova	14	4	.30	.00
В	Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis	82	73	13.49	7.36
В	Chrysothamnus depressus	1	0	-	-
В	Gutierrezia sarothrae	76	79	2.20	4.53
В	Juniperus osteosperma	5	4	5.99	7.11
В	Opuntia spp.	2	3	.00	.00
В	Peraphyllum ramosissimum	1	1	.00	.03
В	Pinus edulis	2	5	-	.03
В	Purshia tridentata	0	0	-	-
В	Quercus gambelii	2	2	.85	.78
В	Ribes cereum cereum	0	1	-	-
Т	otal for Browse	191	177	26.55	24.06

CANOPY COVER --

Herd unit 29, Study no: 1

Species	Percent Cover '98
Juniperus osteosperma	11
Quercus gambelii	1

BASIC COVER --

Herd unit 29, Study no: 1

Cover Type	Nes Frequ	sted iency	Ave	rage Cove	er %
	'92	'98	'87	'92	'98
Vegetation	319	334	1.00	30.22	36.04
Rock	158	90	2.25	2.61	2.96
Pavement	35	174	0	.06	1.72
Litter	309	380	43.00	31.02	41.09
Cryptogams	79	72	.50	1.25	1.62
Bare Ground	297	298	53.25	43.19	44.02

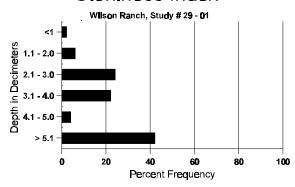
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SOIL ANALYSIS DATA --

Herd Unit 29, Study # 01, Study Name: Wilson Ranch

Effective rooting depth (inches)	Temp °F (depth)	pН	%sand	% silt	%clay	%0M	PPM P	РРМ К	dS/m
15.1	63.6 (15.1)	6.8	56.7	23.4	19.8	1.7	9.9	80.0	.4

Stoniness Index



PELLET GROUP FREQUENCY --

Herd unit 29, Study no: 1

ricia unit 27, 5	tudy 110	. 1
Туре	Qua Frequ '92	
Rabbit	27	20
Deer	42	76
Cattle	-	3

BROWSE CHARACTERISTICS --

Herd unit 29, Study no: 1

A Y G R		Form Cla	ass (N	o. of F	lants)						Vigor Cl	ass			Plants Per Acre	Average (inches)	Total
Е		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4		Ht. Cr.	
Ame	elanc	chier uta	hensi	5													
S 87		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0		0
92		1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	80		4
98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		0
Y 87 92		-	-	-	-	- 15	-	27	-	-	42	-	-	-	0 840		0 42
98		5	_	-	9	-	-	-	_	-	14	_	-	-	280		14
M 87	7	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	-	_	-	_	0		0
92	2	-	1	-	-	3	-	4	-	-	8	-	-	-	160		8
98	8	24	1	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	-	-	1200	80 72	60
D 87		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		0
92 98		-	-	1 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	40 0		2 0
X 87	_									_				_	0		0
92		-	_	-	-	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	_	_	0		0
98		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40		2
	lants	s Showii	ng		derate	Use		avy Us	<u>e</u>		or Vigor				(%Change	
% Pl		107		009	6		009			009						200/	
% Pl		'87					000										
% Pl		'92		379	6		029			009					-	+30%	
% Pl					6		029 009			009					-	+30%	
	ıl Pla	'92	e (exc	379 019	6 6	l & Se	009	%					'87		0	+30% Dec:	0%
	ıl Pla	'92 '98	re (exc	379 019	6 6	l & Se	009	%					'92		0 1040		4%
Tota		'92 '98 ants/Acr	re (exc	379 019	6 6	d & Se	009	%							0		
Tota Arte	emisi	'92 '98 ants/Acr		379 019 Eluding	6 6	1 & Se	009	%			%		'92		0 1040 1480		4% 0%
Tota Arter	emisi 7	'92 '98 ants/Acr ia nova	-	379 019 Eluding	6 g Dead	1 & Se	009	%			-	- -	'92		0 1040 1480		4% 0%
Tota Arte	emisi 7 2	'92 '98 ants/Acr		379 019 Eluding	6 6	- - -	009	%	- - -	-	%	- - -	'92	- - -	0 1040 1480		4% 0%
Tota Arter Y 87	emisi 7 2 8	'92 '98 ants/Acr ia nova	- 1	37% 01% cluding	6 6 g Dead - 2	- - - -	009	%	- - -		- 8	- - -	'92 '98 - -		0 1040 1480 0 160		4% 0% 0 8 0
Arter Y 87 92 98 M 87	emisi 7 2 8	'92 '98 ants/Acr ia nova	- 1 - 7	379 019 Eluding	6 6 g Dead - 2	- - - -	009	%	- - -		- 8 - 1 11	- - - -	'92 '98 - -		0 1040 1480 0 160 0 66 220	Dec:	4% 0% 0 0 8 0 1 11
Arte: Y 87 92 98 M 87 92 98	emisi 7 2 8 7 2 8	'92 '98 ants/Acr ia nova - 4 -	- 1 -	379 019 Fluding	6 6 g Dead - 2	- - - - -	009	%	- - - -		- 8 - 1	- - - -	'92 '98 - -		0 1040 1480 0 160 0 66 220 40	Dec:	4% 0% 0 8 0 1 11 2
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Arter Y 87 92 98 D 87 92 98 X 87 92 98	77 22 88 77 22 88 77 22 88 77 22 88	'92 '98 ants/Acr ia nova - 4 - 3 4 s Showin '87' '92	- 1 - 7 2 - 4 -	379 019 cluding	6 6 g Dead - 2 - - - - - - - - derate	- - - - - - - - - - -		- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	- - - - - -		- 8 - 1 11 2 - 5 4	- - - - - -	'92 '98 - - - - - -		0 1040 1480 0 160 0 666 220 40 0 120 80 0 0	Dec: 16 26 12 23	4% 0% 0 8 0 1 11 2 0 6 4
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A		Form C	lass (N	lo. of I	Plants)						Vigor Cl	ass			Plants	Average	Total
G E	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	Per Acre	(inches) Ht. Cr.	
A	rtem	isia tride	ntata v	vyomii	ngensis	3											•
S	87	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	333		5
	92 98	34 4	-	-	6	-	-	5	-	-	45 4	-	-	-	900 80		45 4
Y	87	5	2		_			_		_	7			_	466		7
1	92	163	22	1	78	-	-	3	-	-	267	-	-	-	5340		267
	98	26	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	-	-	-	720		36
M		-	12	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	1400	18 28	
	92 98	33 30	41 63	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	82 98	-	1 -	-	1660 1960	15 24	- 83 4 98
D	87	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	1	600		9
	92	25	29	35	2	8	-	2	-	-	78	2	16	5	2020		101
L	98	24	36	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	1	-	23	1380		69
X	87 92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		0
	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1380		69
%	Plar	ts Show			derate	Use		ivy Us	<u>se</u>		oor Vigor					%Change	
		'87 '92		419 229			46% 10%				3% 5%					+73% -55%	
		'98		549			06%				%					20,0	
Т	otal I	Plants/Ac	ere (ex	cludin	g Dead	l & Se	edling	s)					'8'	7	2466	Dec:	24%
													'92		9020		22%
													'9	8	4060		34%
_		othamnus	depre	essus											^		
M	87 92	-	-	-	- 1	-	-	-	-	-	- 1	-	-	-	0 20	-	- 0 - 1
	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	- 0
%	Plar	ts Show			derate	Use		ıvy Us	se_		or Vigor					%Change	-
		'87		009			00%)%						
		'92 '98		009			00% 00%)%)%						
											· · · ·						
To	otal I	Plants/Ac	ere (ex	cludin	g Deac	l & Se	edling	s)					'8' '9'		0 20	Dec:	-
													9. '9:		0		-

A		Form Cl	ass (N	o. of I	Plants)						Vigor Cl	ass			Plants	Average	Total
G E	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	Per Acre	(inches) Ht. Cr.	
G	utier	rezia saro	othrae														
S	87 92 98	21 739 91	- - -	- -	15	-	-	- - -	- - -	1 1	21 754 91	- -	- - -		1400 15080 1820		21 754 91
Y	87 92 98	8 155 133	- - -	-	3	-	-	-	- -	-	8 158 133	-	- - -	-	533 3160 2660		8 158 133
M	98 92 98	36 460 300	- - -	- - -	- 7 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	36 467 300	- - -	- - -	- - -	2400 9340 6000		36 467
D	87 92 98	2 1	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -		- 1 -	- - -	- 1 -	- - 1	0 40 20		0 2 1
X	87 92 98	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	-	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	0 0 80		0 0 4
70	riai	nts Showi '87 '92 '98		009	%	OSE	00% 00% 00%	6	<u></u>	.1:	oor Vigor 1% 5% 3%				-	<u>%Change</u> +77% 31%	
Т	otal l	Plants/Ac	re (exc	cludin	g Dead	l & Se	edling	s)					'87 '92 '98		2933 12540 8680	Dec:	0% 0% 0%
Ju	ınipe	rus osteo	sperm	a													
S	87 92 98	2 1	- - -	- - -	- 1 -	- - -	- - -	- 1 -	- - -	1 1 1	- 4 1	- - -	- - -	-	0 80 20		0 4 1
Y	87 92 98	- 1 1	- - -	- - -	- - -	- 1 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 1 1	2 1	- - -	- - -	-	0 40 20		0 2 1
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A G	Y R	Form	Clas	s (No	o. of P	lants)						Vigor Cl	ass			Plants Per Acre	Average (inches)	Tota	ıl
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О	punt	ia spp.									•				•			•	
Y	87		-	-	-	-	-	_	-	-	-	_	-	-	-	0			0
	92	1	l	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	20			1
	98	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	20			1
Μ		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
	92		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	20	-	-	1
	98	2		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	40		20	2
%	Plar	nts Sho	-	3		<u>derate</u>	<u>Use</u>		vy Us	<u>e</u>		or Vigor				-	%Change		
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			-			-			-			, ,							
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L														'98		60			-
$\mathbf{-}$	Ĥ	nyllum	ramo	osissi	mum														
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	92	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	40	-	-	2 2
	98	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	40	53	63	2
\vdash		l																	
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%	Plar	1	87 92	S.	00% 100	%	Use	100 00%	% 6	<u>e</u>	00	% %				-	%Change	<u> </u>	
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To	nus o	Plants/.	87 92 98 Acre		00% 100 00%	% % g Dead	l & Sec	100 00% 100	% % % s)	<u>e</u> - -	0000000	% % %	- - -	'92		666 40 40 200	%Change -39% + 0%		
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A G		Form	Class	(No	o. of Pl	ants)					V	Vigor Cla	iss			Plants Per Acre	Average (inches)		Total
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Ρι	urshi	a trider	ıtata																
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Q	uerci	us gam	belii																
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	98	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
M	87	2		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	133		162	2
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1	otai i	i laiits/ F	icic (CACI	iuumg	Dead	a su	Junings	·)					'92		160			-
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R	ibes	cereum	cere	um															
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